

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003

I. Welcome & Introductions - Jim Smith, IDEM

An agenda was distributed to all present. A welcome to the meeting and introductions of all Trustee Council members present was made. Karen Terrell, IDEM Office of Community Relations, was introduced as the Council's outreach coordinator. Ms. Terrell can be reached in the future at 317-233-6648.

II. Wrap-up from last meeting - Mike Mikulka, US EPA

Mike provided a brief summary of the February 5, 2003 meeting. Minutes of the meeting and a copy of the presentation made regarding the draft NiSource (NIPSCO) clean-up plan were made available to participants. The other primary agenda item discussed at that meeting was an update on the current and planned activities by the GCRRF. Copies of the minutes and NIPSCO's presentation were on IDEM's Web Site.

III. Status Update - Characterization of the West Branch - Jim Smith

A fact sheet on the scope of the West Branch characterization was passed out explaining the study. It was also available on the IDEM web site. Jim Smith presented preliminary data findings regarding chemical, biological and toxicological information from the West Branch study initiated in the fall of 2002. Key elements related to each topic were presented. Jim focused on lead, mercury, PCBs and PAHs for sediments. The Council is still awaiting the final report, which is expected in July. Upon receipt, copies will be made available to the public in the East Chicago and Hammond public libraries and on IDEM's web site. The final data results will be presented at a later public meeting. Draft fish tissue results have also been received, but the data are still undergoing validation. Mercury and PCB results appear to confirm the in-place fish advisories on the Grand Calumet River. Mercury was found in Chinook salmon but appears to be related to contamination received during life cycle activities in Lake Michigan rather than the Grand Calumet River. Mercury was not found in fish that spend their life in the river.

Roxana Marsh Water Control Structures - A brief presentation of the results of the prior US Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE) work on the water control structures around Roxana Marsh was made. The US ACE presented preliminary designs for 5 water control structures. Water control structures would be required to prevent movement of contaminated sediments from sections into areas that were being remediated and to control water levels in the river and/or marsh. Preliminary designs indicated that a steel wall would need to be embedded approximately 12-22 feet into the clay in order to hold back water and contaminated sediments.

IV. Installation of Wells to Identify Extent of Contaminants - Dan Sparks, US FWS

A possible continuing source of a dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) was found in Reach 4 (near Turner Park) of the West Branch. This DNAPL source needs to be further

characterized to determine its impact on future sediment remediation. The Council is considering installation of wells adjacent to the river and additional core samples in the river to determine the impact of the DNAPL on future remediation scenarios. In order to identify the extent of this plume, Mr. Sparks proposed the following tasks: 1) work plans, 2) access agreements, 3) core/well installation and sampling, 4) horizontal & vertical controls, 5) chemical analyses, 6) data validation, and 7) a characterization report.

V. Phase 3 Tasks - Mike Mikulka

Mr. Mikulka discussed the tasks done to date. These included (1) identification of data gaps, (2) characterization of Roxana Marsh, and (3) characterization of the West Branch. Phase 3 tasks were outlined and broken down into 4 categories: baseline human health risk assessment (HHRA); identification and description of restoration alternatives; evaluation of restoration alternatives; and development of risk-based remediation goals. Details of each task were presented. The cost of completing these tasks was estimated at \$500k-\$650k. Mr. Mikulka asked for feedback from meeting participants on the approach, including alternatives that should or should not be considered. Comments made by meeting participants are included in the attachment.

VI. Public Participation Process & Potential Funding - Jim Smith

Jim Smith talked about potential timing of public input as Phase 3 proceeds and frequency of meetings. The point was made that there are likely insufficient funds available to completely clean up the West Branch, and supplemental funding sources will need to be identified. Two potential federal sources are Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funds which require a 35% local match, and Great Lakes Legacy Act funds, which have just become available this year at \$15 million, with \$50 million authorized to be appropriated each of the next 4 years. Use of WRDA funds requires implementation by the USACOE, which means certain additional requirements of their planning process be met. Use of the Legacy Act monies requires that projects be ready to go within 1 year of funding. Discussions on funding will need to be held in the future as planning proceeds.

VII. Next Meeting

- July 15, 2003 - Hammond Public Library: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- Suggested topics for next meeting:
 1. West Branch Characterization Results (if available)
 2. Discussion of potential remediation/restoration alternatives

Attachment 1 to the Public Meeting Minutes

Comment from Curtis Vosti, Hammond Parks department: The City, Sanitary District and Parks Department of Hammond City was working with other public and private partners to formulate a remediation strategy and how they would like to see the money expended. He indicated that they would like to make a presentation to the GCRRF Council to address a myriad of issues such as recreation, redevelopment and environmental education.

Answer: The Council welcomes such ideas and had approached the City in January requesting such a meeting.

Comment of Steve Housty: He was very pleased that we were doing it for the children of Hammond. As a life-long resident of the area, he hopes that the river may some day be able to be used by children. This was in response to the discussion of how the base line human health risk assessment would look at protecting children as one of its components.

Question from Rae Schnapp of HEC: "What is the expected timeline for phase 3?"

Answer: There is no timeline yet. Perhaps Phase 3 can be completed by the end of calendar year 2004.

Comment from Melissa Farrell from the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association: "They want to be able to use the river so a lot is going to depend on how cleaned up the area becomes? Uses to include perhaps rowing, swimming, and fishing?"

General comment from several folks: Are we planning any groundwater remediation?

Answer: No, this was just our effort to investigate it so that we would know how to proceed with remediation of the river. Ground water remediation is not within the scope of the Council's mission.

Question: Where did the money for the GCRRF council come from?

Answer: From settlement of lawsuits against 3 Hammond industries and the Sanitary District of Hammond.

Question from John Coapstick: Would we be using all the samples that have been collected by the Toll Road (we assume he meant the samples we collected and processed on the west Edge of Roxana Marsh just to the east of the toll road).

Answer: All the sample data that has ever been collected will be used.